

Analysis of the Impact of LSTA projects in Washington

Introduction

The *Washington State Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) 5-Year Plan* identifies three primary goals that reflect the needs of the State's citizens for library services. These three goals, stated below, have guided the evaluation of the overall effectiveness of the LSTA program in Washington.

Goal 1: Meeting the Information Needs of a Diverse Population

The people of Washington, whatever their ages, abilities, cultures, ethnic backgrounds, languages, levels of literacy, economic situations or geographic locations, will have effective library service that meets their needs.

Goal 2: Internet Access to Digital Information Resources

The people of Washington will have access to and the ability to use the wealth of electronic resources available through libraries.

Goal 3: Transparent Access through Interagency Cooperation

The people of Washington will have equitable, transparent access to all resources available through libraries.

Two additional areas of LSTA-funded activity have been identified that support all three goals.

Education and Training of Library Personnel

Library employees have been presented with numerous opportunities and incentives to develop their skills and knowledge in critical areas such as technology, information literacy, cultural diversity, cognitive development, and management.

Statewide Planning and Administration

In addition to overseeing the LSTA grants program, the Washington State Library has conducted numerous surveys and focus groups as part of needs assessment to facilitate setting priorities for grant funding. Additional efforts include consulting, staff support, and gathering statistics on various statewide projects.

The following summary reports how LSTA funds have been allocated among these program areas for the three-year period 1998 to 2000. This is followed by an analysis of how LSTA funds have been allocated among different types of libraries during the same period. As two examples of the impact of the LSTA program in Washington, evidence is presented pertaining to the level of Internet connectivity provided by libraries in the state and the level of cost savings for libraries in Washington resulting from Statewide Database Licensing (SDL).

LSTA Projects by Program Goal

LSTA funded projects are listed in Table 1 as primarily contributing to objectives under Goal 1, Goal 2, or Education and Training. Those projects contributing to Goal 3 because they involve interagency cooperation are listed at the bottom of each column under the dotted line. Note that the years listed after each project only indicate the year of LSTA funding. Several projects are ongoing beyond this initial funding period. For example, Find-It! Consumer is currently sustained by partnering agency sponsors.

Table 1: LSTA Projects by Program Goal

	Goal 1: Serving a Diverse Population	Goal 2: Internet Access to Information Resources	Education and Training
	Institutional Materials and Equipment & Branch Migration (1998-2001) Special Populations: Consulting and Staff Support for Underserved Areas (1998-2001) Washington Talking Book and Braille Library (1998-2001)	Connectivity Off-the Shelf Technology Enhancement Digital Libraries Connectivity Enhancement Connectivity 2000 Connectivity 2000 plus Technology Support (1998-2000) Virtual Library (1999) Information Technology Literacy (1999-2001) Information Technology Operations and Support (1999-2001)	Continuing Education Grants (1998-2001) Satellite Project (1999) Reference Performance Training (2000-2001) Information Literacy (2000-2001) Serving Culturally Diverse Populations (2000-2001) Small/Rural Tech. Institute (2001)
Goal 3: Interagency Cooperation	Community College Conspectus (1998) Early Learning (2000-2001)	Statewide Database Licensing (1998-2001) Find-It! Consumer (1999) Digital Images (1999-2001) Virtual Reference Service (2001)	Electronic Reference Workshops (2000) K-12 Summit (2000) K-20 Project (2001)

Allocation of LSTA Funds by Program Goal

From 1998 to 2001, approximately 10.5 million dollars in grant funds was expended to support the development and expansion of library services throughout Washington. In terms of funding priorities, serving the needs of diverse populations (Goal 1) and increasing the level of Internet connectivity to information resources of high quality throughout the state's libraries (Goal 2) has been emphasized during the period from 1998 to 2001. Almost one third of LSTA funds have been used to support projects serving historically underserved or disenfranchised populations such as children under the age of five, rural and tribal populations, the institutionalized, and the visually impaired. The majority of LSTA funds have been used to support projects aimed at building high-speed Internet connections, providing public access Internet terminals, and enabling libraries to access fee-based online resources. The remaining LSTA funds were used to support projects to provide technology and service-oriented training, continuing education, planning efforts, and grants administration (see Table 2 and Figure 1).

Projects that involved interagency cooperation (Goal 3) as a strategy for achieving program objectives were also supported and encouraged. The amount of grant funds expended on projects that involved interagency cooperation, as a subset of total grant funds, is indicated in the last column of Table 1. The amount of funds expended on projects involving interagency cooperation increased steadily by an average rate of 11.6% each year. The specific projects that involved interagency cooperation, either between libraries or between libraries and other social or educational institutions, have been identified in Table 1.

The figures in the Table 2 indicate how much was spent during a given year. LSTA funds can be expended over two years. For example, a large amount of funds were carried over from 1998 to 1999, and small portion of funds was carried over each subsequent year (see Table 3)

Table 2: LSTA Expenditures by Program Goals, 1998-2001

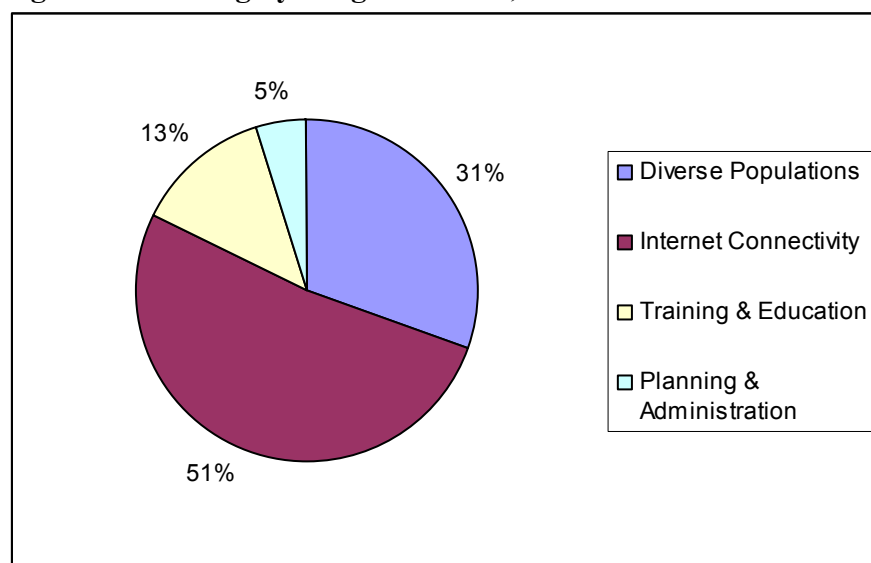
	Goal 1: Diverse Population	Goal 2: Internet Accessibility	Education & Training	Planning & Admin.	Total	Goal 3: Interagency Cooperation/ % of Total
1998	\$754,672	\$192,076	\$40,094	\$100,528	\$1,087,370	\$35,735 3.3%
1999	\$562,513	\$2,537,864	\$353,549	\$110,432	\$3,564,358	\$627,000 17.5%
2000	\$832,641	\$1,560,962	\$343,515	\$123,104	\$2,860,222	\$678,279 23.7%
2001	\$1,084,397	\$1,153,772	\$626,680	\$161,573	\$3,026,422	\$1,149,425 38.0%
Total	\$3,234,223	\$5,444,674	\$1,363,838	\$495,637	\$10,538,372	\$2,390,439 22.7%

Source: The data in Table 1 is drawn from the *LSTA Annual Reports* for fiscal years 1998, 1999, and 2000. Supporting documentation listing all projects and the amount of grant support each received is included in Appendix A.

Table 3: LSTA Awards and Expenditures, 1998-2001

	LSTA Award	LSTA Expenditures
1998	\$2,754,940	\$1,087,370
1999	\$2,760,795	\$3,564,358
2000	\$2,827,608	\$2,860,222
2001	\$3,039,314	\$3,026,422
Total	\$11,382,657	\$10,538,372

Figure 1: Funding by Program Goals, 1998 - 2001



Projects contributing to meeting the needs of a diverse population (Goal 1) have received 31% of all LSTA allocations from 1998 to 2001. During this four-year period, the percentage of funds allocated for these projects each year has ranged from 17% to 70%.

Projects contributing to increasing access to resources through Internet connectivity (Goal 2) have received 51% of all LSTA allocations from 1998 to 2001. During this four-year period, the percentage of funds allocated for these projects each year has ranged from 21% to 70%.

To a certain degree, interagency cooperation (Goal 3) is predicated on libraries achieving a minimum level of online connectivity for both staff and members of the service population in order to communicate effectively and share resources between institutions. Thus, monies spent

on Internet connectivity also ultimately contribute to interagency cooperation. However, this analysis identifies only those projects whose specific objectives pertain to encouraging cooperative projects. These projects have received 22.7% of all LSTA allocations from 1998 to 2001. During this four-year period, the percentage of funds allocated for these projects each year has increased steadily from 3% to 38%.

Projects supporting opportunities for training and continuing education for library employees have received 13% of all LSTA allocations from 1998 to 2001. During this four-year period, the percentage of funds allocated for these projects has ranged from 4% to 22%.

Only 5% of LSTA allocations were used for planning and administrative purposes.

Allocation of LSTA Funds by Type of Library

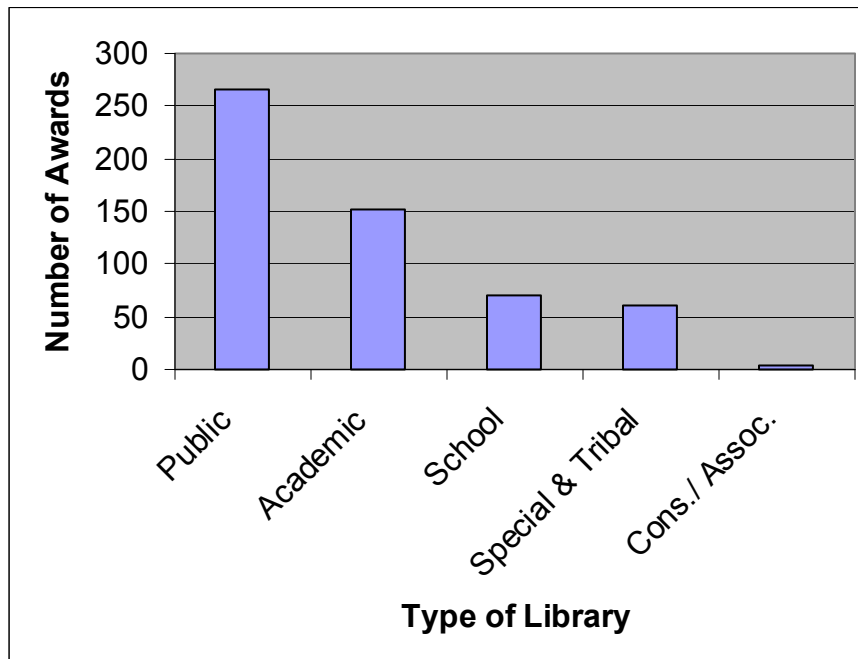
From 1998-2001, almost half of the LSTA funds have been used to support a variety of continuing education and competitive grants, as well as to subsidize costs to participants in the Statewide Database Licensing (SDL) program. If each SDL participant is counted as receiving a “grant award” in the form of subsidized database licensing, then the number of award recipients is 550. Approximately half of these grant awards went to public libraries, a fourth went to academic libraries, and the remaining fourth went to school, special, and tribal libraries (see Table 4 and Figure 2). Only one award was received by a consortium (WALNET). Two continuing education grants were given to associations to host training events.

Table 4: Number of Awards by Library Type, 1998 - 2001

	Public	Academic	School	Special & Tribal	Consortium/ Association	Total
Competitive Grants	89	7	18	5	1	120
Continuing Education Grants	109	89	43	6	2	249
SDL Subsidies	67	56	9	49	0	181
Total	265	152	70	60	3	550

^a SDL subsidies were coordinated through the 9 Educational Service Districts who serve all 296 school districts in the state.

Figure 2: Number of Awards by Library Type, 1998-2001



Public libraries received 58% of the amount of money awarded through competitive grants, continuing education grants, and statewide database licensing. School libraries were only awarded half the total number of grants as were academic institutions (see Table 4), but the actual total dollar amount is 78% greater than the amount awarded to academic libraries (see Table 5). Special and tribal libraries received only a small fraction of the total amount awarded.

Table 5: Amount of Awards by Library Type, 1998-2001

	Public	Academic	School	Special & Tribal	Consortium	Total
Competitive Grants	\$1,726,938	\$264,245	\$632,875	\$95,264	\$68,696	\$2,788,018
Continuing Education Grants	\$54,674	\$61,277	\$20,940	\$4,725	\$830	\$142,446
SDL Subsidies	\$221,998	\$113,987	\$128,739	\$40,814	\$0	\$505,538
Total	\$2,003,610	\$439,509	\$782,554	\$140,803	\$69,526	\$3,436,002

Figure 3: Amount of Awards by Library Type, 1998-2001

